EOR Exam Success Following Research Practicum Presentation
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Background and Purpose
- Assessment within a rigorous program likely includes multiple examinations administered in a short time period, or multiple assignments due concurrently.
- The purpose of this study was to determine whether a major assignment preceding an end-of-rotation (EOR) exam impacts performance by second-year physician assistant students on that exam.

Methods
- A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted.
- Students from the five most recent cohorts were included.
- Students returned to campus following each six-week preceptorship and completed an EOR exam.
- The classes of 2011-2013 completed a 75-question, 90-minute EOR exam developed by program faculty.
- The classes of 2014-2015 completed a 120-question, 120-minute EOR exam developed by PAEA.
- Students concurrently participated in a Research Practicum, where they developed and presented a selective evidence-based medicine review.
- Presentation was required one day preceding 1 of 4 exam days during the latter half of the clinical year.
- EOR exam scores from the first half of the clinical year were excluded, when no students presented their research.
- A Chi-square analysis was performed to determine if an association existed between presentation schedule and exam failure demonstrated all expected cell frequencies were greater than 5.
- There was not a statistically significant association between presentation schedule and exam failure, $\chi^2(1) = 0.205, p = 0.651.$

Results
- The chi-square test for association conducted between presentation schedule and exam failure demonstrated all expected cell frequencies were greater than 5.
- There was not a statistically significant association between presentation schedule and exam failure, $\chi^2(1) = 0.205, p = 0.651.$

Discussion
- Although the presentation of a research practicum and an EOR exam are both substantial assessments, students are no more likely to fail an EOR exam the day following that presentation than other days.
- The impact of two high-stakes assessments scheduled in close proximity has not demonstrated a negative effect on the latter assessment.
- Further investigation is needed to determine if this effect is seen in other programs and related to other styles of assessment.

References